

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, and 8-13 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 have been amended. New claims 11-13 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting a telephone interview on December 15, 2004.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Taylor and further in view of Scully. The claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback in view of Taylor and Scully and further in view of Whitesage. Applicants traverse the rejections above.

Claim 1 recites, "an external storage apparatus for storing schedule information having *classification data on location of a business event and pre-selected schedule* status data inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal and travel expense reimbursement information indicating whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed, the schedule information including business trip schedule information and non-business trip schedule information; and a computer readable medium including: code for determining whether or not a given item of said schedule information relates to said business trip schedule information or said non-business trip schedule information based on said status and classification data, *wherein said classification data indicates whether or not the business event involved a business trip*, code for comparing said travel expense reimbursement information and said business trip schedule information with each other to search for travel expense information that has not been reimbursed, and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed." The cited references do not disclose the above features of using "the classification data" in the manner recited. Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 4 recites, "an inputting means for inputting business trip schedule information including first classification data and non-business trip schedule information including second classification data, said first classification data indicating location of a business meeting...a searching means for searching business trip schedule information from the external

storage apparatus based on said first and second classification data, so that said non-business trip schedule information is not extracted..." The cited references do not disclose or suggest the above features. Claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 8 recites, "an external storage apparatus for storing a plurality of schedule information entries inputted from said inputting device of said schedule inputting terminal and travel expense reimbursement information indicating whether or not travel expense has been reimbursed, said schedule information entries including a plurality of business meeting entries of first type and a plurality of business meeting entries of second type, said entries of first type relating to business meetings that result in incurring business expenditures and said entries of second type relating to business meetings that do not result in incurring business expenditures, each schedule information entry having classification data that indicates a location of the business meeting; and a computer readable medium including: code for extracting only said entries of first type from said plurality of said schedule information entries using said classification data, said classification indicating whether or not a given entry of said schedule information relates to a business meeting that resulted in incurring a business expenditure." The cited references do not disclose or suggest the above features. Claim 8 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/508,870
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005
Amendment (Submission with RCE)

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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